



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 2, 2008

### **H.R. 5690**

**A bill to exempt the African National Congress from treatment as a terrorist organization for certain acts or events, provide relief for certain members of the African National Congress regarding admissibility, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on April 30, 2008*

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5690 would have no significant cost to the federal government. Enacting the bill could affect direct spending, but CBO estimates that any such effects would not be significant in any year. In addition, we estimate that enacting H.R. 5690 could increase revenues by less than \$500,000 a year over the 2009-2018 period. This legislation contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The bill would broaden the authority of the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to permit certain members of the African National Congress to enter the United States.

The Department of State collects fees from persons who apply for immigrant and nonimmigrant visas from overseas. Under current law, some application and issuance fees for visas are deposited in the Treasury as revenues (applicants for immigrant visas pay a \$355 fee and South African citizens who receive certain nonimmigrant visas pay an \$85 issuance fee). Based on information from the Department of State, CBO estimates that, under the bill, the department would process few additional applications annually and that enacting H.R. 5690 would increase revenues by less than \$500,000 a year over the 2009-2018 period.

The Department of State also charges individuals entering the country other visa fees: a \$131 application fee for nonimmigrant visas, a \$45 security surcharge for immigrant visas, and depending on the type of visa petition, additional fees for fingerprinting or affidavits of support. In addition, DHS would collect fees ranging from \$100 to \$500 to process visa applications from most individuals affected by H.R. 5690. All of those fees are classified as

offsetting collections (for the Department of State) or offsetting receipts (for DHS) and are retained and spent by the departments. CBO estimates that the net budgetary effect of those increased collections would be less than \$500,000 a year.

Finally, some of the individuals admitted under this legislation could become eligible for certain federal benefits, but CBO expects that any increase in direct spending for benefit programs would not be significant over the 2009-2018 period.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Mark Grabowicz (for DHS's costs), and Sunita D'Monte (for the Department of State's costs). This estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.